



STATEMENT
BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CARLO CALENDÀ
PRESIDENT IN OFFICE OF THE EU FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL - TRADE

The EU Trade Ministers and Commissioner De Gucht met in Rome on October 14-15 to discuss the state of play of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations. During the Informal meeting, the Ministers had the opportunity to share ideas with US Chief negotiator, Ambassador Froman, who participated in both the public event on TTIP opened by the Italian Prime Minister Renzi and in a meeting with the EU Ministers.

On both occasions, the EU Ministers had an exchange of views with the USTR on the future of negotiations that clearly resulted in the following considerations:

- TTIP is key to favoring the economic relaunch on both shores of the Atlantic, even more so due to the geopolitical situation on Europe's borders;
- There is a strong expectation to conclude a very ambitious agreement as soon as feasible, according to the Council mandate and taking into account the sensitivities arisen in this first year of negotiations on both sides;
- To reach this goal, it is fundamental to rely on two elements: clear and strong political support of the negotiations by both parties and enhanced transparency towards public opinion so as to clarify the real terms of the agreement and highlighting the ensuing benefits for SMEs and European citizens;
- We need to intensify talks so that, with the new Commission and based on what is already included in the mandate, we reinvigorate negotiations by setting a clear and convincing roadmap.

Rome, 15th October 2014